

A Potpourri of Research, some miscellaneous Gems

Grace For Grace

John 1:16 οτι εκ του πληρωματος αυτου ημεις παντες ελαβομεν και χαριν αντι χαριτος  
John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and GRACE for GRACE. KJV

Strong's Concordance 473 anti - for, in the place of.

A primary particle; opposite, i.e. Instead or because of (rarely in addition to) -- for, in the room of. Often used in composition to denote contrast, requital, substitution, correspondence, etc.

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

χαριν ἀντί χάριτος GRACE in the place of GRACE, GRACE succeeding GRACE perpetually, i. e. the richest abundance of GRACE, John 1:16

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Ephesians 2:7

7That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his GRACE in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 13:9

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with GRACE; not with meats (foods), which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.

Romans 4:16

16 Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by GRACE; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Galatians 3:21

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

Luke 11:4

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Luke 17:3

3 Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.  
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Win, Lose Or Draw?

When Adam and Eve fell does anyone suppose that God Almighty was caught off guard and without a plan? Only a fool would believe such a thing. God had the plan, "the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began." Romans 16:25

Furthermore, how many people believe that this great plan and secret of God was to merely put His children back on a pre-fall basis? Indeed, many well intentioned people believe just that.

Why are we told that God "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." Ephesians 3:20

Because that is exactly what He intends to do, and no area more important than His eternal plan for the salvation and elevation of His children. This is what it is all about.

First some elementary background.

God gave Adam and Eve and all of their descendants the power of free choice. They chose to sin. He has chosen to redeem us with the life and works of Jesus Christ. God has not done this to merely put us back on the status quo with Adam before the fall. He is fulfilling his original plan in spite of human choice. He has included man's worst choice in his plan for overcoming all obstacles. God's children can now trade in mere created human life for the only begotten life of the Son within them.

We know that to lose we would have to reject God's offer. To go back to the pre fall-state of Adam would be a draw. We are supposed to win and we do.

What is only begotten life like? Look at Jesus on the cross. His body was long past supporting human life before he released his spirit back to the Father. Only Begotten life cannot be killed. It is the life of God Himself.

"For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself." John 5:26

This means that Jesus is the life source. This is theological proof of His divinity. Now He shares it with us.

"And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life." 1 John 5:11-13 NASB

The Greek as reflected in the NASB contains the definite article THE life. That is because it is that particular form of life which God possesses. All living beings draw their natural life from God. Christians have the Only Begotten life inside them because Jesus is inside.

Research – description of only-begotten, a single word in the Greek:

Strong's Concordance 3439 monogenēs (from 3411 /mīsthōtós, "one-and-only" and 1085 /génos, "offspring, stock") – properly, one-and-only; "one of a kind" – literally, "one (monos) of a class

monogenés: only begotten

Original Word: μονογενής,

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: monogenés

Phonetic Spelling: (mon-og-en-ace')

Short Definition: only, only-begotten, unique

Definition: only, only-begotten; unique.

Scriptures from John's Gospel NASB

And the Word became flesh, and [k]dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of [l]the ONLY BEGOTTEN from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me [m]has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"

16 For of His fullness [n]we have all received, and [o]grace upon grace.

17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth[p]were realized through Jesus Christ.

18 No one has seen God at any time; the ONLY BEGOTTEN God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. John 1:14 -18

For God so loved the world, that He gave His [e]ONLY BEGOTTEN Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

18 He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the [f]ONLY BEGOTTEN Son of God. John 3:16 - 18

## DISCERNMENT AND SIGNS SCRIPTURES

One Old Testament example of many. King David, a man after God's own heart.

2 Samuel 14:17 AMP

And the woman said, The word of my lord the king (David) will now give me rest and security, for as an angel of God is my lord the king to hear and discern good and evil. May the Lord your God be with you!

How Jesus Discerned.

Isaiah 7:14-16

King James Version (KJV)

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Here is the whole secret. Discernment is not learned, it is developed. This means that the whole of our experience of God and his written word is required to develop true spiritual discernment. Even then it does not consist of theological theory and gathering and absorbing the facts. That is only part of it. A developed discernment is as much a matter of spiritual taste and smell as it is mental understanding. A good chef many have many recipes on file. But after she selects, cuts up, mixes and cooks the final test is in the smell and taste of the dish. True spiritual discernment must include the smell and taste of the doctrine or practice. So, how do we know if the smell and taste is a good one.

“O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him.” Psalm 34:8

We smell and taste and consume the very best and sweetest and compare all things to that. Isaiah says that Immanuel will eat butter and honey. This Jesus did. And this Jesus Is. Anything that does not taste like butter and honey does not taste right. Furthermore, it is not a matter of degrees, of tasting ALMOST like butter and honey. It is a simple decision. If it tastes like butter and honey, you choose it. If it does not taste like butter and honey, you refuse it.

Bank tellers are not taught how to identify counterfeit money by studying counterfeit money. They are taught to study all the details of real money. Anything that does not resemble the real thing is, therefore, counterfeit. The teller may not even know exactly what is wrong, but the great majority of the time some part of their mind recognizes the fake money.

There are numerous axioms brought forth by the natural mind to illustrate this concept. “This food tastes a little off.” Or, “I smell a rat.” Dried prepared food that has spent too much time in a warehouse will have an aged taste. It smells like a warehouse. This is not good. That warehouse smell usually comes from an infestation of rodents. It smells like rats. The phrase “ I smell a rat” has valid origins.

We are often taught about spiritual things by references to natural things. For instance, the Holy Spirit may be likened to the wind. Of the five natural human senses smell and taste are unique. Of course, seeing and hearing and touching are great, but God does not always give spiritual visions, speak audibly or enable us to physically feel his presence. Those three senses do not require us to actually take in a substance. Smell requires some vapors to actually enter the nose and taste requires that the substance be taken into the mouth which usually leads to ingesting it unless you spit it out. True spiritual discernment requires that you take some into your spiritual self and either eat it or spit it out. A keen sense of spiritual smell will prevent you from having to taste it and a keen sense of spiritual taste can at least enable you to spit it out before you swallow it. There is even the

axiom, “He swallowed the whole thing,” meaning that the person in question was completely taken in by the lie or the fake or the sham.

The Christian “lay person” must learn to trust their own discernment. It is a gift of the Spirit. I Cor 12: 10 Blind trust in the paid ministerial professional is the path to deception. Just because he is called “Reverend” and is paid to minister proves nothing spiritually. A lay person who feeds often on the butter and honey of Jesus can feel like there is something wrong with a teaching or a manifestation. But they do not trust their discernment. Certain slang words may apply like “hinky” or “tilt.” Such possible discernment at the very least warrants a close second look.

For instance, what about Angel feathers? Some actually believe that they have a feather which fell from an angel. In the first place, is there any mention whatsoever in the written Word of God about angels having feathers. I close look will soon verify that there is no mention whatsoever of angels having feathers. This is pure drivel and yet people will follow leaders who produce these feathers without questioning the validity of the ‘miracle.’ An old feather pillow will produce an enormous supply of these feathers which can ultimately lead the undiscerning person to the Kool Aid. Is the immediate belief in Angel feathers all that destructive? Perhaps not, but what can it lead to? Why do drug peddlers give away the first few samples of the drug? To gain a permanent addict and customer. The beginning of deception can lead to big issues, especially in a leader.

The Spiritual Man.

1 Corinthians 2:14-16

Amplified Bible (AMP)

14 But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept or welcome or admit into his heart the gifts and teachings and revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned and estimated and appreciated.

15 But the spiritual man tries all things [he examines, investigates, inquires into, questions, and discerns all things], yet is himself to be put on trial and judged by no one [he can read the meaning of everything, but no one can properly discern or appraise or get an insight into him].

16 For who has known or understood the mind (the counsels and purposes) of the Lord so as to guide and instruct Him and give Him knowledge? But we have the mind of Christ (the Messiah) and do hold the thoughts (feelings and purposes) of His heart.

John’s Key

1 John 2:3 AMP

And this is how we may discern [daily, by experience] that we are coming to know Him [to perceive, recognize, understand, and become better acquainted with Him]: if we keep (bear in mind, observe, practice) His teachings (precepts, commandments).

Encounters with Jesus

Jesus performed many many miracles and signs. However, he also put them in perspective.

Luke 17:19-21

Amplified Bible (AMP)

19 And He said to him, Get up and go on your way. Your faith (your trust and confidence that spring from your belief in God) has restored you to health.

20 Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He replied to them by saying, The kingdom of God does not come with signs to be observed or with visible display,

21 Nor will people say, Look! Here [it is]! or, See, [it is] there! For behold, the kingdom of God is within you [in your hearts] and among you [surrounding you].

John 4:47-49

Amplified Bible (AMP)

47 Having heard that Jesus had come back from Judea into Galilee, he went away to meet Him and began to beg Him to come down and cure his son, for he was lying at the point of death.

48 Then Jesus said to him, Unless you see signs and miracles happen, you [people] never will believe (trust, have faith) at all.

49 The king's officer pleaded with Him, Sir, do come down at once before my little child is dead!

John 6:25-27

Amplified Bible (AMP)

25 And when they found Him on the other side of the lake, they said to Him, Rabbi! When did You come here?

26 Jesus answered them, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, you have been searching for Me, not because you saw the miracles and signs but because you were fed with the loaves and were filled and satisfied.

27 Stop toiling and doing and producing for the food that perishes and decomposes [in the using], but strive and work and produce rather for the [lasting] food which endures [continually] unto life eternal; the Son of Man will give (furnish) you that, for God the Father has authorized and certified Him and put His seal of endorsement upon Him.

John 7:30-32

Amplified Bible (AMP)

30 Therefore they were eager to arrest Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, for His hour (time) had not yet come.

31 And besides, many of the multitude believed in Him [adhered to Him, trusted in Him, relied on Him]. And they kept saying, When the Christ comes, will He do [can He be expected to do] more miracles and produce more proofs and signs than what this Man has done?

32 The Pharisees learned how the people were saying these things about Him under their breath; and the chief priests and Pharisees sent attendants (guards) to arrest Him.

God's Signs (One reference of many.)

Hebrews 2:3-5

Amplified Bible (AMP)

3 How shall we escape [appropriate retribution] if we neglect and refuse to pay attention to such a great salvation [as is now offered to us, letting it drift past us forever]? For it was declared at first by the Lord [Himself], and it was confirmed to us and proved to be real and genuine by those who personally heard [Him speak].

4 [Besides this evidence] it was also established and plainly endorsed by God, Who showed His approval of it by signs and wonders and various miraculous manifestations of [His] power and by imparting the gifts of the Holy Spirit [to the believers] according to His own will.

5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the habitable world of the future, of which we are speaking.

Paul on God's Wisdom

1 Corinthians 1:21-23

Amplified Bible (AMP)

21 For when the world with all its earthly wisdom failed to perceive and recognize and know God by means of its own philosophy, God in His wisdom was pleased through the foolishness of preaching [salvation, procured by Christ and to be had through Him], to save those who believed (who clung to and trusted in and relied on Him).

22 For while Jews [demandingly] ask for signs and miracles and Greeks pursue philosophy and wisdom,

23 We preach Christ (the Messiah) crucified, [preaching which] to the Jews is a scandal and an offensive stumbling block [that springs a snare or trap], and to the Gentiles it is absurd and utterly unphilosophical nonsense.

Lawless Signs

2 Thessalonians 2:8-10

Amplified Bible (AMP)

8 And then the lawless one (the antichrist) will be revealed and the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of His mouth and bring him to an end by His appearing at His coming.

9 The coming [of the lawless one, the antichrist] is through the activity and working of Satan and will be attended by great power and with all sorts of [pretended] miracles and signs and delusive marvels—[all of them] lying wonders.

10 And by unlimited seduction to evil and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing (going to perdition) because they did not welcome the Truth but refused to love it that they might be saved.

#### Demonic Signs

Revelation 16:13-15

Amplified Bible (AMP)

13 And I saw three loathsome spirits like frogs, [leaping] from the mouth of the dragon and from the mouth of the beast and from the mouth of the false prophet.

14 For really they are the spirits of demons that perform signs (wonders, miracles). And they go forth to the rulers and leaders all over the world, to gather them together for war on the great day of God the Almighty.

15 Behold, I am going to come like a thief! Blessed (happy,[a]to be envied) is he who stays awake (alert) and who guards his clothes, so that he may not be naked and [have the shame of being] seen exposed!